

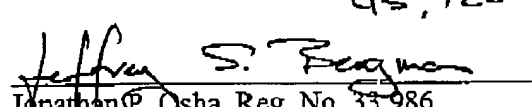
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/818,117  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 06558.011001

examination of this application. No amendments have been made for reasons relating to patentability. No new matter has been introduced by way of this amendment.

Applicants believe that this paper is fully responsive to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated January 21, 2003, and respectfully request favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 06558.011001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/11/03

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Marked up Version of Claim 23

23. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the storage tank is a pressure balanced vessel having a box-shaped configuration with a web-framed steel structure [and stable flotation for open-water tow] and stable flotation for open-water tow.